

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2023-31

WHEREAS, on August 29, 2023, the undersigned issued Executive Order No. 2023-29, declaring a State of Emergency due to the threats posed by Hurricane Idalia, which made landfall along the coast of the State of Florida on August 30, 2023, as a category 3 hurricane before impacting the State of South Carolina, and waiving or suspending certain transportation-related regulations to facilitate emergency preparations and response operations in connection with the same; and

WHEREAS, due to the aforementioned State of Emergency and the forecasted hazardous weather conditions and resulting impacts associated with Hurricane Idalia, and in accordance with the directive set forth in Section 1(H) of Executive Order No. 2023-29 for state government offices to follow county government closure determinations, state government offices in numerous counties throughout the State were closed or operated on an abbreviated schedule on one or more days during the period from August 30, 2023, through August 31, 2023, to ensure the safety of state employees and the general public; and

WHEREAS, section 8-11-57 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended, provides, in pertinent part, that “whenever the Governor declares a state of emergency or orders all or some state offices closed due to hazardous weather conditions he may authorize up to five days leave with pay for affected state employees who are absent from work due to the state of emergency or the hazardous weather conditions.”

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of South Carolina and pursuant to the Constitution and Laws of this State and the powers conferred upon me therein, I hereby order and direct as follows:

Section 1. Authorizing Leave with Pay Due to Hurricane Idalia

A. I hereby authorize leave with pay for affected state employees, as set forth below, who were absent from work during the State of Emergency and due to the aforementioned hazardous weather conditions, and in accordance with the directive set forth in Section 1(H) of

Executive Order No. 2023-29 for state government offices to follow county government closure determinations, in the following counties and on the following dates:

August 30, 2023:

Closed: Allendale County, Beaufort County, Dorchester County, Hampton County

Abbreviated Schedule: Aiken County (closed at 3:00 p.m.), Bamberg County (closed at 3:00 p.m.), Barnwell County (closed at 12:00 p.m.), Berkeley County (closed at 2:00 p.m.), Calhoun County (closed at 12:00 p.m.), Charleston County (closed 1:00 p.m.), Clarendon County (closed at 3:30 p.m.), Colleton County (closed at 12:00 p.m.), Dillon County (closed at 4:00 p.m.), Fairfield County (closed at 3:00 p.m.), Florence County (closed at 3:00 p.m.), Jasper County (closed at 12:00 p.m.), Lee County (closed at 3:00 p.m.), Marion County (closed at 4:00 p.m.), Marlboro County (closed at 12:00 p.m.), Orangeburg County (closed at 12:00 p.m.), Sumter County (closed at 3:30 p.m.), Williamsburg County (closed at 1:00 p.m.)

August 31, 2023:

Closed: Allendale County, Beaufort County, Berkeley County, Charleston County, Colleton County, Dorchester County, Hampton County, Jasper County, Marion County

Abbreviated Schedule: Aiken County (delayed until 10:30 a.m.), Bamberg County (delayed until 11:00 a.m.), Calhoun County (delayed until 11:00 a.m.), Clarendon County (delayed until 10:30 a.m.), Darlington County (delayed until 11:00 a.m.), Dillon County (delayed until 11:00 a.m.), Florence County (delayed until 10:30 a.m.), Georgetown County (delayed until 12:00 p.m.), Horry County (delayed until 10:00 a.m.), Lee County (delayed until 10:30 a.m.), Marlboro County (delayed until 12:00 p.m.), Orangeburg County (delayed until 11:00 a.m.), Sumter County (delayed until 10:00 a.m.), Williamsburg County (delayed until 10:00 a.m.)

B. In the event that county government offices in a county not listed above were closed or operated on an abbreviated schedule during the State of Emergency and due to the aforementioned hazardous weather conditions, I hereby authorize the South Carolina Department of Administration to grant leave with pay for affected state employees who were absent from work as a result of the corresponding closure of state government offices and to administratively add any such county to the list of covered closures without the need for further Orders.

Section 2. General Provisions

A. This Order is not intended to create, and does not create, any individual right, privilege, or benefit, whether substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the State of South Carolina, its agencies, departments, political subdivisions, or other entities, or any officers, employees, or agents thereof, or any other person.

B. This Order shall be implemented consistent with and to the maximum extent provided by applicable law and shall be subject to the availability of appropriations. This Order shall not be interpreted, applied, implemented, or construed in a manner so as to impair, impede, or otherwise affect the authority granted by law to an executive agency or department, or the officials or head thereof, including the undersigned.

C. This Order is effective immediately.

**GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE
GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF
SOUTH CAROLINA, THIS 14th DAY OF
SEPTEMBER, 2023.**

HENRY MCMASTER
Governor

ATTEST:

MARK HAMMOND
Secretary of State